

ABSTRACT

A display device (3), which has conventionally been used exclusively for display of a control state of a control unit (2), is applied as center of data communication, and in the display device (3), an operation of converting a communication protocol used for data communication between control units (2) or between a control unit (2) and a data processing device (7) is performed. This ensures that in a control system (1) in which a plurality of control units (2) are used in association with each other, the control units (2) are used exclusively for their own purpose, that is, I/O control, thereby reducing loads on the control units (2). Furthermore, the data processing device (7) or the control units (2) need not consider innumerable communication protocols of the control units (2). This ensures a decrease in the number of steps necessary for production of software.

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